

Bolton Hill Sports Complex Update

On the evening of September 13th, the City hosted an open house at the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. Public Works Director Kyle Schauer reported that a decent number of people showed up to discuss the next phase of planning for the sports complex. He said the overall mood was one of excitement.

City staff highlighted the Bolton Hill Sports Complex's conceptual design, including the fields, pathways, and playground. David Dougherty and Eric Parson, of Dougherty Landscape Architects, were also present and active in the discussion.

At this stage, Schauer pointed out, there will likely

be few changes concerning the uses of the sports complex, however they are still soliciting feedback to enhance the existing plan. They are considering things like covered dugouts or incorporating more storage into the design.

"We've received important feedback that we will definitely be taking into consideration as we transition into the next phase of planning," said Schauer.

The next phase of planning involves two things. Number one, moving forward from the conceptual design to the actual design. Schauer estimates that

(See "BHSC" on page 3)

It Was a Record Year for the Annual Harvest Festival

The 14th Annual Harvest Festival took place on Saturday, September 9th in downtown Veneta. Organizers of the annual Mid Lane Cares fundraiser reported it was the most well attended Harvest Festival in their history!

Mid Lane Cares is responsible for key community programs such as the Love Project Food Pantry, S.A.N.T.A., Senior Meals, and more. The City leases the Fern Ridge Service Center to Mid Lane Cares at the rate of one dollar annually for the benefit of the community. The annual Harvest Festival helps contribute to the maintenance and operation costs.

Highlights of this year's festival are similar to those of year's past: the Veneta Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-off, Kiwanis Kruise-in, food trucks, music, shaved ice, and more booths than ever.

Additions this year included breakfast served by Joy Cart in the Fern Ridge Service Center and there was a booth offering fresh apple cider pressing.

Pape Automotive took home First Place in the Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-off. Second Place and the People's Choice Award went to S.A.N.T.A.'s Helpers. Third Place and Best Booth presentation went to Oregon Empire Real Estate. The Chamber donated \$1,100 of their Chili Cook-off proceeds to Mid Lane Cares!

Pat Coy reported on the success of the Kiwanis Kruise-In. The event, which Coy co-chaired with Rosie Melton, had a record number of participants: Ninety-five cars and seven motorcycles. Winners in each class were awarded with impressive trophies made of

(See "Harvest Festival" on page 3)

Fall Tree Planting

Did you know that according to the Old Farmer's Almanac, fall is the absolute best time to plant trees? This is because the soil tends to be easier to dig into, and planting trees in the fall allows plenty of time for them to establish their root systems before winter.

Other experts claim that there are benefits to planting trees in the springtime. After all, nurseries offer a wider selection, and some believe that planting trees in the spring is more likely to feel like a fun activity and less like a chore.

Although opinions differ, there is no arguing that trees do best when planted in late fall, winter, or early spring. Summer is the most stressful time for young trees, given the extreme heat and drought. Deciduous trees do especially well when planted in the fall.

Fall is an excellent time to plant other things as

(See "Tree Planting" on page 3)

|  CIVIC CALENDAR OCTOBER 2023  | | |
|--|---|---|
| All meetings held at City of Veneta, 88184 8th St, unless otherwise noted | | |
| 3 | Planning Commission Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 9 | City Council Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 11 | Economic Development Committee Meeting | 2:00 p.m. |
| 12 | Park Board Meeting | 4:30 p.m. |
| 19 | Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. |
| 23 | City Council Work Session | 5:00 p.m. |
| 27 | Business Assistance Committee Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| 31 | Happy Halloween  |  |

Department Updates

ADMINISTRATION

- The local Cub Scouts pack is re-starting in the Veneta area. Cubmaster Mark Flowers attended the September 11th City Council meeting to announce the new pack as part of the Scouts' Troop 50 based in Veneta. The City Council donated funds to help supply the new pack.
- The latest update of the local Resources Flyer is available at City Hall and the Fern Ridge Service Center. This is produced by Fern Ridge Advocates for the Unhoused Group (F.R.A.U.G.) as an information service for people in need of some help. By the way, in September, the F.R.A.U.G. organized the annual volunteer Lot 400 clean up. Dr. William Foster, Alexa Benson, and Pat Coy led the effort with great support from City staff volunteers and Lane County outreach services.
- Also, in September the City hosted an event to unveil the updated concept design for the Bolton Hill Sports Complex. Several Territorial Sports Program parents bringing their kids to soccer games and other visitors got to learn more about the goals for the design. City staff and the design consultants did a great job highlighting the features for soccer, baseball, and softball. You can see the designs and learn more about the project timeline at www.venetaoregon.gov



PUBLIC WORKS

- The streets got a new shiny coat of reflective paint last month. Looking good, Veneta!
- The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) moved dirt from the earthen berm at their Bolton Hill headquarters to the City's Lot 602 on the corner of Jack Kelley Drive and 8th Street. ODF is clearing the berm to make room for a new tree seedling cooler building. The City is using the fill dirt to bring the land on Lot 602 up out of the flood plain. This will make the property more developable.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The single-family residential subdivision being prepared on Jeans Road is called Oakley Estates. Phase 1 & 2 off Todd Way will be 28 homes, phases 3-5 will be much larger. The developer has given the City a performance bond to ensure that public utilities such as streets, sewer lines, water lines and stormwater facilities will be built.
- The Park Board staffed the City's Harvest Festival table. They raffled off six 8-foot and larger trees. Congratulations to the winners of those beautiful trees: Myrle McLernon, Chris Wade, Jessica Warrick, Ariel (Ryan) Stafflund, Jennifer Whalen, MaryAnn Adelars and Laura Schauer.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Mayor Weiss spoke to the Governor-appointed Oregon Transportation Commission as part of a panel of Lane County agencies (called Lane ACT). In preparation for Mayor Weiss's presentation, we received updated crash information showing that on Highway 126 from 2019-2022 there have been 15 crashes, including three fatalities. The Commission asked Lane ACT to set their top transportation priorities and submit them to the Commission. Veneta's top priority is expanding Highway 126 between Hunter Road and Terry Street in Eugene and it would benefit the entire region.
- With guidance from the Economic Development Committee, the City is convening a Community Identity Committee. This initiative comes from community surveys that had both residents and businesses asking for a shared community identity. This initial work will identify how people describe Veneta, what sets it apart, what summarizes the emotional memory of Veneta, and other questions that get at what is timeless about our city.



Volunteer Veneta

Current volunteer opportunities for the City of Veneta and local non-profit organizations.



City of Veneta

- ♦ Budget Committee - 2 vacancies
- ♦ Economic Development - 1 vacancy
- ♦ Park Board - there is 1 adult vacancy and 1 student vacancy

The City currently has several vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees, you can contact the City of Veneta at 541-935-2191 or visit our website at www.venetaoregon.gov

Mid Lane Cares

There are vacancies for their new shower and laundry program. You can volunteer as little as once a week or once a month. Contact Deanna at 541-935-4555 to find out more.

Senior Meals - We Need Your Help!

Senior & Disability Services relies on dedicated volunteers throughout Lane County to help deliver meals to seniors. You can volunteer as little as two (2) hours per week. YOU can make a DIFFERENCE in your community! For more information, contact a Senior and Disability Services **Volunteer Coordinator** at **541-682-1366**

BHSC continued

(Continued from page 1)

process could take up to one year. Number two is working in collaboration with the Territorial Sports Program to nail down the logistics of the long-term ongoing maintenance of the facility.

"They have been a partner in this since the beginning. They have lots of positivity towards the project, which is great. We've had a good, longstanding partnership with the Territorial Sports Program, and we see that continuing into the future with this facility,"

Harvest Fest continued

(Continued from page 1)

tools and car parts. Proceeds went to support Kiwanis local youth programming and the OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital. "The Harvest Festival brings people out to enjoy and spend time with each other. It is something to look forward to every year," said City Administrator Matt Michel.

The Veneta Park Board had a booth and conducted a free Tree Raffle for six ornamental trees. This was the first year the City and the Park Board partnered to do a tree giveaway.

"It was very popular," said Community Development Director Matt Laird. "People liked the trees we selected. They seemed pleased."

Winners



Tree Planting continued

(Continued from page 1)

well, such as shrubs, bulbs, and perennials. The rain contributes to establishing roots, and as a result, the plants tend to be larger and stronger than ones planted in the spring. Best practice is to thoroughly research the type of tree or bulb you are planting, and plan accordingly.

Protecting trees from pests can be achieved by placing a barrier, such as fencing, around young trees. Mulching is recommended but be careful not to heap too much around the trunks of plants. For trees, you can also try tree wrap,



a commercial product that helps protect the bark from frost.

The City asks residents to be mindful of leaves in streets, roads, sidewalks, trails, and paths. Piles of leaves in the street make it difficult for street sweepers to properly do their job. And leaves collecting on sidewalks can present a hazard.

Beginning October 1st, Sanipac will resume their seasonal leaf pick-up program, collecting leaves on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Leaves must be placed in medium-sized bags containing nothing else. Happy fall, y'all!

Leaf Pick-Up Begins October 3rd!

The City of Veneta will begin picking up bagged leaves left at curbside from October 3rd until January 30th. There may be an occasion where the Public Works department is unable to pick them up due to work load. If you feel that you were missed, please call City Hall at 541-935-2191.

- Leaves will be picked up on Tuesday and Thursday of each week through January 30th.
- Bags are to contain leaves only, no garbage or other yard debris.
- Bags must be tied shut.
- As an alternative, you may place leaves in your Yard Debris Roll Cart provided by Sanipac or use them for mulch or compost for gardens and flower beds.
- Citizens are asked to help reduce flooding by not raking leaves into gutters or storm drains or streets.
- Depositing leaves or other debris in a drainage way or street is a violation of Veneta Municipal Code Chapter 13.15.010.
- If you want leaves for compost, please contact City Hall at 541-935-2191



ShakeOut. Don't Freak Out.

October 19, 2023

Register now at ShakeOut.org



Bicycle Master Plan a Boost for Cyclists

Lane County's Bicycle Master Plan is likely to spell very good news for the future of cycling in the Fern Ridge region. The Plan was designed as part of a larger effort intended to make bicycling a more viable transportation option in rural Lane County. That's right, in rural Lane County.

Eugene has long been known for its bicycle-friendliness, but roadways in rural regions, particularly ours, have decidedly not been designed for bicycles. Highway 126 between Eugene and Veneta is just one of the areas under review, as is Territorial Highway.

After soliciting tons of feedback from rural residents for at least the past year, the county reports that changes to roadways could include widening the shoulders of narrow roads, lowering speed limits, and improving maintenance practices. Other improvements to infrastructure could include changing the pavement to one more suitable for bicycles.

It is important to keep in mind that few plans have

been confirmed, and the road to improving infrastructure for bicyclists in rural Lane County is a long, and nuanced, one.

Community Development Director Matt Laird said the effort is being spearheaded by the County, but the City of Veneta Paths and Trails Master Plan complements their proposed bicycle network map.

Lane County is funding, engineering, and designing the Bicycle Master Plan because the roads and highways are expected to undergo changes largely fall under their jurisdiction.

"We are very much in favor. We support their efforts. We are moving forward with our Paths and Trails Master Plan in the next stage of land use adoption. We are looking to adopt it into the Comprehensive Plan which is acknowledged by the State of Oregon," Laird explained.

Advocates of the Bicycle Master Plan say that bicycling promotes good health, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and can even encourage local tourism.



Off-Leash Dog Park Update

The off-leash dog park at Brooker Lane will be seeded over the wet season. Meanwhile, a final design and construction plan will be completed. With a little help from Mother Nature, the grand opening should occur in late summer 2024.



Public Safety Report - August 2023

| Incident Type | Calls | | | Cases | | |
|--|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Calls | Same Month/ Prior Year | 5-Year Average | Cases | Same Month/ Prior Year | 5-Year Average |
| Property (Thefts, Criminal Mischief, Trespass, UUV, UEMV, Fraud) | 31 | 42 | 56 | 11 | 13 | 32 |
| Person (Assaults, Menacing, Harassment, Viol. Restraining Order) | 23 | 33 | 26 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Public Order (Disorderly Subject, Citizen Contact, Suspicious activity) | 88 | 60 | 70 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Individual Welfare (Welfare Checks, Missing Persons, Overdose) | 20 | 34 | 20 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| Vehicle (DUII, DWS, Illegal Parking/Vehicles, Traffic Hazard) | 17 | 24 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Offense Against State (Drug, Warrants, Local City Ord) | 13 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Civil (Civil Service, Eviction Process) | 11 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neighborhood Watch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Stops | 12 | 38 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 216 | 243 | 223 | 31 | 30 | 56 |